



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2006

File No. 341

Senate Bill No. 605

Senate, April 4, 2006

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. FINCH of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LIMITED SUNDAY HUNTING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-73 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, Sunday shall
4 be a closed season except for the purpose of trapping under the
5 provisions of this chapter. The possession in the open air on Sunday of
6 any implement for hunting shall be prima facie evidence of hunting in
7 violation of the provisions of this section. No provision of this section
8 shall be construed so as to affect any provision of section 26-31, 26-48,
9 26-52 or 27-35 or apply to the use of bow and arrow for purposes other
10 than hunting. Artificially propagated birds designated by the
11 commissioner may be shot on Sundays on licensed private shooting
12 preserves subject to such regulations of the commissioner as may
13 apply to such private shooting preserves, provided permission so to
14 shoot has been obtained from the town or towns within which such
15 licensed private shooting preserves are located.

16 (b) The commissioner may allow Sunday hunting with a bow and
17 arrow on private property in areas designated by the commissioner to
18 require additional management to control game species
19 overpopulation. A person hunting on private property pursuant to this
20 subsection shall obtain the written consent of the owner of such
21 private property or from such owner's authorized agent. Such written
22 consent shall be carried by such person while hunting pursuant to this
23 subsection.

24 Sec. 2. Section 26-86a of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

26 (a) The commissioner shall establish by regulation adopted in
27 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 standards for deer
28 management, and methods, regulated areas, bag limits, seasons and
29 permit eligibility for hunting deer with bow and arrow, muzzleloader
30 and shotgun. [, except that no] No such hunting shall be permitted on
31 Sunday, except as provided in section 26-73, as amended by this act.
32 No person shall hunt, pursue, wound or kill deer with a firearm
33 without first obtaining a deer permit from the commissioner in
34 addition to the license required by section 26-27, as amended.
35 Application for such permit shall be made on forms furnished by the
36 commissioner and containing such information as he may require.
37 Such permit shall be of a design prescribed by the commissioner, shall
38 contain such information and conditions as the commissioner may
39 require, and may be revoked for violation of any provision of this
40 chapter or regulations adopted pursuant thereto. As used in this
41 section, "muzzleloader" means a rifle or shotgun of at least forty-five
42 caliber, incapable of firing a self-contained cartridge, which uses
43 powder, a projectile, including, but not limited to, a standard round
44 ball, mini-balls, maxi-balls and Sabot bullets, and wadding loaded
45 separately at the muzzle end and "rifle" means a long gun the projectile
46 of which is six millimeters or larger in diameter. The fee for a firearms
47 permit shall be fourteen dollars for residents of the state and fifty
48 dollars for nonresidents, except that any nonresident who is an active
49 full-time member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103,

50 may purchase a firearms permit for the same fee as is charged a
51 resident of the state. The commissioner shall issue, without fee, a
52 private land deer permit to the owner of ten or more acres of private
53 land and the husband or wife, parent, grandparent, sibling and any
54 lineal descendant of such owner, provided no such owner, husband or
55 wife, parent, grandparent, sibling or lineal descendant shall be issued
56 more than one such permit per season. Such permit shall allow the use
57 of a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow on such land from
58 November first to December thirty-first, inclusive. Deer may be so
59 hunted at such times and in such areas of such state-owned land as are
60 designated by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and on
61 privately owned land with the signed consent of the landowner, on
62 forms furnished by the department, and such signed consent shall be
63 carried by any person when so hunting on private land. The owner of
64 ten acres or more of private land may allow the use of a rifle to hunt
65 deer on such land during the shotgun season. The commissioner shall
66 determine, by regulation, the number of consent forms issued for any
67 regulated area established by said commissioner. The commissioner
68 shall provide for a fair and equitable random method for the selection
69 of successful applicants who may obtain shotgun and muzzleloader
70 permits for hunting deer on state lands. Any person whose name
71 appears on more than one application for a shotgun permit or more
72 than one application for a muzzleloader permit shall be disqualified
73 from the selection process for such permit. No person shall hunt,
74 pursue, wound or kill deer with a bow and arrow without first
75 obtaining a bow and arrow permit pursuant to section 26-86c. "Bow
76 and arrow" as used in this section and in section 26-86c means a bow
77 with a draw weight of not less than forty pounds. The arrowhead shall
78 have two or more blades and may not be less than seven-eighths of an
79 inch at the widest point. No person shall carry firearms of any kind
80 while hunting with a bow and arrow under said sections.

81 (b) Any person who takes a deer without a permit shall be fined not
82 less than two hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars or
83 imprisoned not less than thirty days or more than six months or shall
84 be both fined and imprisoned, for the first offense, and for each

85 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars or
86 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year
87 or shall be both fined and imprisoned.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	26-73
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	26-86a

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Department of Environmental Protection	Conservation Fund - See Below	Minimal	Minimal

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Impact	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Explanation

Allowing Sunday hunting with a bow and arrow, on private property, and with a permit will minimally increase revenue to the Conservation Fund of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and certain municipalities (town clerks retain \$1 for each license sold). The change is not anticipated to have a significant effect on the number of bow hunters. The revenue impact is anticipated to be minimal. Allowing for the Sunday hunting would also result in a minimal workload increase for Conservation Officers due to the additional hunters. Conservation Officers currently work on Sundays.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis
SB 605*****AN ACT CONCERNING LIMITED SUNDAY HUNTING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits bow hunting on Sundays under certain conditions. Current law prohibits all Sunday hunting.

Under the bill, bow and arrow hunters may hunt on private property on Sundays in certain management areas (1) that the environmental protection commissioner designates as needing additional management to control game species and (2) if they carry written permission of the property owner or his agent.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 8 (03/20/2006)